BIRD CALENDAR - 1926 - 22nd YEAR

Bulletin No. 1

Records for 1926 by Professor Hulme.

No season of recent years has, perhaps, shown so clearly as the present one, that weather conditions – especially if they affect the country generally – exert a strong influence on the movements and habits of migratory birds. It may well be that the presence or absence of suitable and adequate food is more powerful in determining changes – fluctuations – of the migratory habits of birds than weather conditions.

The food supply of birds, however, in northern latitudes is very largely dependent upon weather conditions. If, for instance, a heavy snowfall comes early in November and the ground remains covered with snow virtually all winter, from November to April – as sometimes happens -, birds of virtually all kinds are deprived of food from natural sources. And those that remain through the winter in regions where the snow-fall is great must get their sustenance altogether from feeding-boxes. But it is doubtful whether feeding-boxes for winter birds, even though they have increased rapidly in numbers during the past decade or so, have as yet begun to exert any appreciable influence on the annual migration from northerly regions to their feeding grounds far south, as winter approaches. The one or two individuals of the several varieties which are observed every winter by bird lovers who keep feeding-boxes well supplied with the right kinds of food, are as a mere drop in the bucket when compared with the thousands and tens of thousands of the same varieties that are known to make the annual pilgrimage to some southern paradise of birds.

In this connection, the careful Bird-Census kept for the last two years by Dean Henry Turner Bailey of the winter residents (from October to April) of the gulch in Lake View Cemetery is very instructive. Ten varieties of birds in varying numbers have been seen by him monthly (sometimes weekly) through six months (including, according to the conventional calendar, two autumn months, three winter months, and one spring month) of the two years. Two other varieties (Chickadee and Tufted Tit-mouse) were seen constantly through the winter of 1925-1926, and not at all in the winter of 1924-1925. Still another variety (Hairy Woodpecker) was observed only in December of 1924-1925, and in December, February, and March of 1925-1926.

One of the ten varieties which were seen almost constantly by Dean Bailey in Lake View during the two winters was the Song Sparrow, which has usually been recorded as a spring migrant for this part of the country. And there was no feeding-box in the immediate vicinity of the Lake View gulch which could have accounted for the fact that these birds remained there through the winter. But Song Sparrows also visited Professor Finfrock's feeding-box at 3186 Oak Rd., Cleveland Heights all winter long. And the Bird Calendar for 1925 reports that the Song Sparrow, "1-3 at a time, once singing in January", was seen constantly through the winter by Mrs. Dr. Ruedy on Noble Road, where they probably found suitable food awaiting them every time they called.

It will apparently require close observation for several more consecutive years by several different observers in various localities of this region, before we

shall be prepared to give any definite, authoritative opinion on the extent to which the Song Sparrow is becoming non-migratory in this region and latitude.

It is a fact, probably beyond dispute, that the winter of 1925-1926 has been exceptionally hard on the resident birds of Northern Ohio, because of the constantly recurring snow storms and icy spells between the middle of October and the beginning of April. These unusual weather conditions no doubt account for the fact that the spring migration from the South really reached Cleveland almost a month later this year than it did in 1925. But for the week or ten days just preceding the recent severe western blizzard, spring birds were beginning to come frequently, and in some cases (Bronzed Grackles and Robins) in great numbers. And a few of them, like the Phoebe, Mourning Dove, and Cow-bird, arrived almost as early this year as last.

The list of winter residents and spring migrants, so far as reports have been received to date (March 31), is as follows:

1. Cardinal; seen in Wade Park and on Hessler Road almost constantly throughout the winter. One male has been singing his spring song almost daily since the first days of February. Reported by Dean Bailey in Lake View during October, November, December, and March; by Professor Finfrock at 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights, and by Professor Visscher, March 21, Euclid Heights.
2. Chickadee; seen by Dean Bailey from time to time through the winter in Lake View; March 7 Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods; occasionally in Wade Park and Shaker Heights.
3. American Crow; seen by Dean Bailey in Lake View several times in October, once in January and frequently in February and March; Professor Finfrock, March 7, Jopling's Woods; frequently in Wade Park.
4. Brown Creeper; occasionally in Wade Park; not seen after October 25 by Dean Bailey in Lake View.
5. Sparrow Hawk; occasionally by Dean Bailey in Lake View; March 7, by Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods, and in Wade Park.
6. Blue Jay; frequently seen by Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; in Wade Park and on Hessler Road frequently throughout the winter; till the middle of December in Lake View by Dean Bailey.
7. Junco; frequently seen by Dean Bailey in Lake View; several times in Wade Park.
8. White-breasted Nuthatch; seen throughout winter by Dean Bailey in Lake View; Professor Finfrock at 3186 Oak Road; and in Wade Park.
9. Screech Owl; one seen frequently by Professor Finfrock at 3186 Oak Road; one seen once or twice in Wade Park, where it has lived for several years.
10. English Sparrow; seen frequently throughout the winter in various places.
11. Song Sparrow; seen constantly through the winter by Dean Bailey in Lake View; seen and heard February 28 by Mrs. F.H. Ginn, in Gates Mill Village; March 6, Miss Ruth Garry, Noble Road; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods; March 8, Mrs. Simmons, Noble Road; March 19, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy (several) Noble Road, March 20, Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights, and Donald Hulme, S. Woodland Blvd., Shaker Heights; March 22, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road.

12. Tree Sparrow; seen throughout winter by Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; by Dean Bailey in Lake View, and by Donald Hulme occasionally on Shaker Heights.
13. Starling; seen frequently throughout winter (several) in Wade Park and on Hessler Road; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods; March 20 (many seen), Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights. The Starling is frequently mistaken for the "Blackbird" (Bronzed Grackle, as well as Rusty Blackbird).
14. Tufted Titmouse; through November, January, and February, seen frequently by Dean Bailey in Lake View; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods; March 21 (two) seen by Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights.
15. Bob-white; seen frequently during winter by Dean Bailey in Lake View, Christmas week, a covey of 25-30 seen on Upper Shaker Lake; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods; March 29, covey seen by Donald Hulme, Paxton Road, Shaker Heights.
16. Downy Woodpecker; seen throughout winter by Dean Bailey, Professor Finfrock, and others.
17. Hairy Woodpecker; seen throughout winter by Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; occasionally since December by Dean Bailey in Lake View.
18. American Eagle; the famous Vermilion Eagle (female) was not absent from Vermilion for more than a week or ten days at a time during the winter; February 1, seen on eyrie by Mrs. F.E. Ranney; February 17, seen by same observer carrying corn stalks to nest; Vermilion Eagle also reported by Professor Finfrock.
19. Golden-crowned Kinglet; seen occasionally in Wade Park and March 28 -29 in Lake View; not reported after November by Dean Bailey in Lake View.
20. Mallard Duck; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods.
21. Flicker; one resident at Professor Finfrock's house, 3186 Oak Road.
22. Herring Gull; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods.
23. Ruffed Grouse; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods.
24. Great Horned Owl; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods.
25. Pheasant; December 13, one seen by Dean Bailey in Lake View.
26. Pine Siskin; October 4, one seen by Dean Bailey in Lake View; March 7, Professor Finfrock, Jopling's Woods.
27. Bronzed Grackle; one resident during winter at Professor Finfrock's home, 3186 Oak Road; March 3, reported by Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; March 18, several seen by Professor Herrick at Vermilion, Ohio; March 20, three seen by Donald Hulme, S. Woodland Boulevard, Shaker Heights; same date, one seen on Harkness Memorial Chapel; March 23, Professor Visscher, Adelbert Campus; March 24, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy (several) Noble Road.
28. Killdeer; March 4, several heard by Professor Herrick, Vermilion, O.; March 21 one seen and heard flying over Adelbert Campus by Donald Hulme; March 24, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy (several) Noble Rd.; March 31, Professor Finfrock.
29. Meadow Lark; March 4, several seen by Prof. Herrick, Vermilion, O.; March 20, three seen by Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights; March 22, one seen by Donald Hulme, S. Woodland Blvd, Shaker Heights; March 23, Miss Dorothy Rhodes, Euclid Beach; March 29, Professor Finfrock, Forest Hill; March 31, one in Wade Park.

30. Large Albino Hawk; (?) March 4, Professor Herrick, Vermilion, O. It was flying so high (1000-1500 feet), that it was impossible to identify it, when seen against the blue sky it seemed white, and if a hawk, it might have been a Red-tailed or a Red-shouldered Hawk. But it might also have been an albino eagle or Turkey Buzzard.
31. Robin; one resident throughout winter at Professor Finfrock's home, 3186 Oak Rd; March 1, one seen by Dean Helen Smith, College for Women Campus; March, Mrs. S. Parkondi[?], South Euclid; March 10, Miss Dorothy Rhodes, College for Women Campus; March 12, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy (several seen and heard singing) Noble Road; March 20, Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights; March 22, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; March 23, Professor Visscher, Adelbert College Campus.

    The writer of this note, and several friends, observed the following interesting and unusual adventure of a male Robin on one of the Muskoka Lakes (Lake Joseph), Ontario, one afternoon late last summer. We were sitting on a veranda with a beautiful vista through the fine silver birches out on to and across the lake, enjoying the cool breeze, the fine prospect, and conversation, when the attention of several of the party was caught by a small garter snake gliding quickly down the path leading from the house to the water, only few yards away. But the snake was evidently aiming for a thick clump of buck bushes, wild roses, etc., at one side of the path, when all of a sudden a robin swooped down on it, and after striking at it viciously two or three times, flew away with the snake in its beak. The garter snake looked to be at least fifteen inches long.
32. Blue Bird; March 18, Professor Herrick, Vermilion, O.; March 19, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy (several) Noble Rd; March 20 (two) Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights; March 26, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road.
33. Red-headed Woodpecker; March 18, Professor Herrick (heard several calling), Vermilion, O.
34. Red-winged Blackbird; March 19, Professor Visscher, Shaker Lakes; March 20, and 28, Dean Bailey, Lake View, and Mrs. Dr. Ruedy, Noble Road; March 29, Donald Hulme, Lake View.
35. Fox Sparrow; March 20 and 28, Dean Bailey, Lake View; March 28 and 29, Donald Hulme, Lake View.
36. Night Hawk; March 24, Professor Visscher, Cleveland Heights.
37. Mourning Dove; March 26, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road.
38. Phoebe; (one) March 31, Donald Hulme, Wade Park.
39. Scaup Duck; March 31, Donald Hulme, on pond by roadside, near Chesterland Caves.
40. Cow Bird; March 19, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy, Noble Road.
41. Marsh Hawk; March 30, Professor Finfrock, Wilson's Mill Road at Chagrin River.
42. Field Sparrow; March 30, Professor Finfrock, Wilson's Mill Road at Chagrin River.